

because he had been a supporter of that war. But he saw it crumbling before his eyes.

Oh, yes, there has been an election over the last couple of days, but we always wonder what direction and how we could have handled it differently so that the lives that were laid down did not have to be laid down in a war in Iraq. The champion for the military saw that there was a crack in the system, and he chose to speak eloquently about it.

I miss John Murtha. This body misses John Murtha, Democrats and Republicans. America misses John Murtha. But the one good news about John Murtha's life is that his legacy will live on forever and ever and ever. I thank him for serving, for living. And to his family, God bless you, and may he rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit a statement into the RECORD next week that will also speak to the qualities and the honor of John Murtha, the late Congressman from Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BERKLEY. I was in the doctor's office a moment ago, and I had the opportunity to be watching C-SPAN and listen to what the gentleman from Kentucky said about Yucca Mountain. I just thought I better come down here and set the record straight, because obviously my esteemed colleague from Kentucky doesn't know the Yucca Mountain issue very well. So with this 5 minutes I would like to help enlighten him and the rest of my colleagues.

The State of Nevada is opposed to storing this Nation's nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. President Obama pulled the plug because, and only because there is no scientific evidence, and there never has been, that Yucca Mountain can safely store thousands and thousands of tons of toxic radioactive nuclear waste within the Yucca Mountain complex. And let me tell you why, Mr. Speaker.

At Yucca Mountain we have discovered there are groundwater issues, seismic activity, volcanic activity. To refresh everybody's memory, the EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, had a radiation standard of 10,000 years, where they wanted to be able to safely store this Nation's nuclear waste, thousands and thousands of tons of radioactive material, for 10,000 years.

□ 1230

The U.S. Court of Appeals overthrew that radiation standard, and let me

share with you why: Because they determined, based on scientific evidence, that the radiation standard should be 300,000 years because that is when radiation reaches its peak. So the 10,000-year radiation standard was thrown out by the U.S. Court of Appeals, and they could never figure out how to come up with a radiation standard that tracks with the scientific evidence.

There is no way to safely transport radioactive nuclear waste across 43 States in order to be buried in a hole in the Nevada desert where, I remind you, we have groundwater problems, seismic activity, and volcanic activity. There are no canisters that currently exist—they do not exist—that can safely transport and store nuclear waste; not in Yucca Mountain, not anywhere.

We had better figure out as a Nation, before we start building more nuclear power plants that create more nuclear waste, what we are going to do with the by-product of nuclear energy, which is the nuclear waste.

This country has been single focused, and the people of Nevada have said year after year, decade after decade, we are not the answer. We don't want to be this Nation's garbage dump for this Nation's nuclear waste.

We do not produce one nanogram, not one speck of energy using nuclear in the State of Nevada, so why should we be accepting everybody's nuclear waste. If you have a nuclear power plant in your district, in your State, then that is fine. You figure out what you are going to do with the nuclear waste that is produced by creating nuclear energy.

The idea that Nevada should be the repository, and some people call it the suppository, for nuclear waste in this country is an absolute absurdity. We will fight this.

We thank the President of the United States for standing with the people of the State of Nevada. We do not want the nuclear waste. It is dangerous, and we join with everyone else in trying to come up with a solution. But this myth that we are going to have one repository instead of 43 or 33 or however many nuclear power plants we have in this country is preposterous, because these power plants are going to keep creating nuclear waste. So we are not eliminating nuclear dump sites; we are creating an extra one. Can't do it. Shouldn't do it. Won't do it.

I urge my colleagues to join with me and come up with a suitable method of dealing with our nuclear waste. Yucca Mountain just is not that answer, and it never will be.

NO GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have been talking for over 3 years about the problem of the debt and def-

icit facing our Nation. We, as well as average Americans, have realized that these problems are a threat to our existence as the greatest and freest Nation on Earth. But what the Democrats are proposing to do in passing a health care bill that Americans do not want is an even more immediate threat to the future of this Nation. Let me explain just a little bit about that.

What the Democrats are proposing to do is a government takeover of health care that the American people do not want. Because they have a political problem, because there is no support for this bill among Americans, they are going to use a procedural mechanism to avoid an up-or-down vote on the bill that the Senate passed on Christmas Eve. They are going to create a reconciliation bill that meets the Senate test for reconciliation. As the majority leader said out here a few minutes ago, we are not the Senate. We don't have reconciliation rules. He kept making that point over and over again. But they are going to create a mechanism to pass a bill in the House to match reconciliation rules over in the Senate.

What they want to do is to develop mechanics to hide a vote on the Senate bill and create a scheme to pass a bill in the House that will then pass muster in the Senate. It is a cram-down; and despite what the majority leader keeps saying about the fact that we have seen the bill, we know what is in the bill, we have not. Bills have to be developed in bill language, and we have to see specifically what it is we are going to vote on.

The President has never presented a bill to the American people. What the President did present about 3 weeks ago was an 11-page proposal. That is exactly what it is called on the President's Web site: The President's proposal, February 22, 2010. It is really 10 pages with one line on page 11. It has general language. It makes insurance more affordable. It sets up competitive health insurance markets, ends discrimination against Americans with preexisting conditions, and it says that it bridges the gap between the House and Senate bills and includes new provisions to crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse. This is not legislative language. We cannot vote on something like this.

In addition, one of my colleagues just pointed out to me that there is a 19-page summary of the 11-page proposal on the White House Web site. You know, if you haven't read "1984," I ask you, read it. If it has been a long time since you've read it, read it again.

Now let me give you an example of specific legislative language. This is a page out of the Senate bill that passed. I don't know the section before, but this starts out with (1). It is page 35.

"(1) Requirement to provide value for premium payments. A health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall, with respect to each plan year, provide an annual rebate to each enrollee under

such coverage, on a pro rata basis, in an amount that is equal to the amount by which premium revenue expended by the issuer on activities described in subsection (a)(3) exceeds," and then it has an (A) and a (B) and a (2). That is specific language that is used in bills that we pass here every day.

What the President has proposed is not legislative language. What they want to do is use something called the "Slaughter sleight of hand," and the American people don't want it.

HONORING REVEREND DAVID CRUMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend to this House the memory of one of my constituents, the Reverend David Joshua Crump, who, at the age of 42, died suddenly on February 20 of this year.

Rev. Crump was a young man of strong personal faith, coming from a long line of leaders in America's faith community, including Bishop Alexander Waymon. His parents, the Reverends Izell and Elaine Crump, are also well-regarded ministers in my hometown of Baltimore.

At a time when so many of America's young people are struggling to come of age without strong and loving fathers in their lives, Rev. David Crump's commitment to their upbringing was a beacon of personal and social responsibility for us all.

I had the occasion to attend the funeral of the late David Crump, and his foster children, a number of them, came forward and talked about how he had touched their lives and how he had opened so many doors for them and what a wonderful parent he was.

Not only that, David Crump excelled in his mastery of that most valuable kind of wisdom: the insights that help us to remain focused squarely upon what is truly important in our lives.

In 1998, I invited the Congressional Black Caucus to Baltimore for a field investigation hearing of our local responses to illicit drug use and HIV/AIDS. We chose Micah's Cafeteria as the primary site for our hearing. David Crump's family owned Micah's, and David was the master chef and maitre d' at the restaurant. During our field hearing there, he made a very favorable impression on all of my CBC colleagues. Our positive response went beyond the positive quality of the restaurant's food. We were heartened by how well David worked with Micah's staff, and especially with the young people who worked with him. These young men and women were competent and polite, building better lives for themselves, and a lot of that had to do with David's leadership and compassion for them. It soon became apparent that David Crump was at the heart of a transformation that was worth our understanding.

In the years that followed, I would often find David reaching out to the young and giving them an opportunity to find themselves in life-affirming settings. His calling was at the center of his faith.

So often, people go to church and prayer meeting, and when they come out the door, they forget their faith. But he never forgot. Not only was he a great foster parent, but he was a very loving husband.

With his wife, Theresa Mina, he built a home full of love and laughter for the children who came into their lives. He was a man of good humor and a gentle spirit. He was a good father and husband who was devoted to his God and to his family.

One of the things that I said at his funeral was, if I ever met someone who tried to walk in the path that God had laid out, it was David Crump.

Mr. Speaker, recently I was thinking about Rev. Crump's example as I read comments that Attorney General Eric Holder made during a recent speech. Encouraging men to take more responsibility for our children and homes, Attorney General Holder observed that, "I have held many titles in my life, but the title I am most proud of is father. A father's role in the life of a child is irreplaceable."

Stressing that we must do more to create a culture of mutual respect, our Attorney General went on to emphasize that we hold the future in our hands. He said, "We as men need to spend more time with our sons and daughters. We need to teach our sons to have respect for women and daughters to demand respect for themselves."

This same wisdom was at the heart of David Crump's ministry and personal life. His vision and commitment are examples that we all would be well advised to follow.

I strongly believe that government has important roles to play in rebuilding America's communities, yet I also understand that we, as individual citizens, are the critical element in the social transformation that this Nation needs to undertake. Rev. David Crump understood this, both in his ministry and in his personal commitment to the young people in his life. He was, indeed, a wonderful role model.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate this opportunity to speak here on the floor. The topic again will be health care because, even though most of Americans are more concerned about the economy, as am I, and jobs, because the President keeps trying to shove this thing into the lap of Americans—actually, it will control

the lap of Americans—we have to deal with this until we can start over, start fresh, get the special interest groups, the unions, AARP, those people who have been meeting in the last few weeks behind closed doors, away from C-SPAN cameras, getting special deals for themselves, we start over and start fresh. And the number one most important aspect is not the unions. It is not AARP. It is retired people. It is seniors. It is Americans across the country. It is the poor. It is the wealthy. It is everybody.

□ 1245

Those people who are United States citizens, those are the number one concern, should be, under a newly negotiated bill.

I just got sent a copy of an e-mail that has gone all over the country apparently from a group called Organizing Against America—I'm sorry, Organizing for America, it just sounds like they're organizing against America—and it has an individual's name, first name. It says: "President Obama has called for the House to vote to move health reform forward as early as next week. Your representative"—in this case, LOUIS GOHMERT—"voted last fall to allow insurance companies to continue to jack up rates, drop coverage when folks need it the most, and discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions." You know, the rules of the House do not prevent me from calling this what it is: that's a lie; that's simply not true.

But it goes on to say: "We're in the final margin, one last chance to do the right thing." It says: "Call Representative GOHMERT today," and it says: "Let them know"—that's not correct grammar, but that's not the only thing that's not correct—"know that there is a political price to favoring big insurance companies over the American people."

"Organizing Against America"—I'm sorry, "Organizing for America" supporters in Texas have pledged 506,830 volunteer hours to fight for candidates who support reform."

So, anyway, what they're not apparently aware of is that the vast majority of Americans, the vast majority in my district, they know what this bill—I've got four volumes to get it all, that's the bill that was passed in the House—they know what this represents. It's a government takeover not just of health care, but a whole lot more than that. Anyway, that's the stuff that's going out in this hour of desperation to try to cram this bill through, cram it down on America.

I heard our valiant Speaker PELOSI, I saw and heard the video of the Speaker saying we've got to pass this bill so that we can find out what's in it. I understand that she was talking about apparently there's a big fog around the bill and we really won't see what's in the bill until we pass it and then the fog is lifted; but some of us have been concerned that we need to look at this